

-- from United States Patent 5,955,663. --.

On page 2, between lines 13 and 14, please insert the following:

A3 -- Summary of the Invention --.

✓ On page 2, please delete lines 16 and 17.

✓ On page 3, please delete line 2.

On page 3, please delete line 15 and substitute the following therefor:

A4 -- Brief Description of the Drawing --.

On page 4, between lines 2 and 3, please insert the following:

A5 -- Description of the Preferred Embodiments of the Invention --.

In the Abstract:

On page 9, please delete lines 1 and 2 and substitute therefor:

A6 -- Abstract of the Disclosure --.

In the Claims:

✓ Please cancel claims 1 to 4 and add claims 5 to 7 as follows:

5. A method for detecting combustion misfires in an internal combustion engine, the method comprising the steps of:

considering the position of angular segments relative to a reference point (TDC) of the movement of the piston of the engine which are dependent upon at least one operating parameter of the engine; and,

evaluating segment times in which a shaft of the engine passes through said angle segments.

6. The method of claim 5, comprising the further step of considering an angle expansion of the angle segments; and, causing the angle expansion of the angle segments to be dependent upon at least an operating parameter of the engine.

7. A method for detecting combustion misfires in an internal combustion engine, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether engine rpm (n) and engine load (L) lie in a segment length (L1);

if yes, then forming segment time (ts) having a first segment length (1) and, if no, then forming segment time (ts) having a second segment length (2);

determining whether engine rpm (n) and engine load (L) lie in a segment start (1);

if yes, then forming a segment time (ts) having a segment start (1) and, if no, then forming a segment time (ts) having a segment start (2);

determining if segment time (ts) is greater than a threshold; and,

15 if yes, then switching on a fault lamp indicating the
presence of a misfire.